

Application No. 10/518,422
Amendment Date February 3, 2006
Response to Office Action of October 3, 2005

PATENT
Docket Number: 2007USWO

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed October 3, 2005. Claims 1-19 have been canceled. New claims 20-39 are added. Claims 20-39 remain pending.

New claims 20-39 have been added to clarify the present invention. Support for new claims 20-39 can be found throughout the specification and specifically on page 9 line 6-page 10 line 5 (the cleaning textile is first treated with the additive and then treated with the disinfecting composition); page 2 lines 9-17 (disinfection of floors using a cleaning mop); page 5 lines 13-20 (textile is a cloth, rag, or nonwoven material and cotton or microfiber); page 9 lines 9 (additive can be diluted or undiluted); page 10 lines 1-4 (disinfecting composition is aqueous); and page 10 line 8 (mop may be allowed to dry).

Extension of Time

It is noted that a one-month extension of time is needed for timely response to the above-identified Office Action. A request for such an extension is submitted herewith.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 16-20 were objected to because of a typographical error in claim 16. It is believed that this is moot in light of new claims 20-29.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112 Second Paragraph

Claims 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 ¶2 as indefinite. It is believed that this is moot in light of new claims 20-29.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejected claims 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sidoti (U.S. 2003/0008795) in view of Delaney et al. (U.S. 6,090,768) or Hopkinson et al. (U.S. 6,358,903). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

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Applicants have added new claims 20-39 to characterize the invention as a method of reducing the loss of active disinfectant from a floor disinfecting composition by treating the cleaning mop with an additive prior to applying the disinfecting composition, and a method of disinfecting a floor, where the application of the additive to the cleaning mop prevents the active disinfectant from adsorbing onto the cleaning mop. The advantage of the present invention is that it allows the disinfectant to be available for disinfecting a floor, instead of remaining on the mop.

Sidoti, Delaney et al., and Hopkinson et al. are directed to laundry compositions and in particular the pre-spotting of textiles followed by the cleaning of the textiles. While Applicants invention treats a textile with an additive, the textile is a cleaning mop and the purpose of the treatment is to improve the cleaning mop's ability to transfer a disinfecting active agent from a disinfecting solution onto a floor. This feature is not taught in Sidoti, Delaney et al., or Hopkinson et al. either individually, or in combination. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Summary

It is respectfully submitted that each of the pending claims is in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is kindly requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' primary attorney-of-record, Anneliese M. Seifert, at (651) 795-5661, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

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